

Offside Skate

Official Newsletter for the South Carolina Stingrays Boosters Association



FROM THE PRESIDENT

2014-2015 Board of Directors

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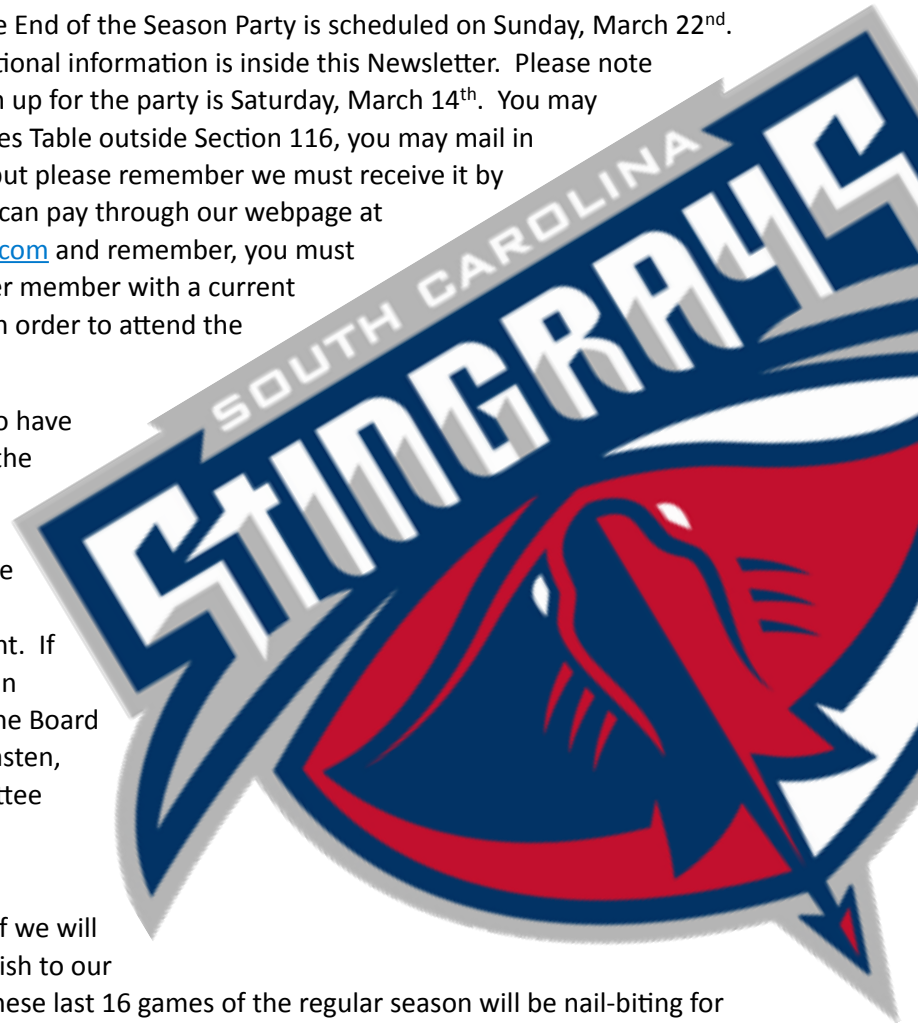
The End of the Season Party is scheduled on Sunday, March 22nd. The flyer with additional information is inside this Newsletter. Please note the last date to sign up for the party is Saturday, March 14th. You may sign up at our Games Table outside Section 116, you may mail in your sign up form but please remember we must receive it by March 14th, or you can pay through our webpage at www.raysboosters.com and remember, you must be an active booster member with a current paid membership in order to attend the party.

We will also have Board elections at the party. All Board positions are up for election with the exception of the position of President. If you are interested in becoming part of the Board let me or Wayne Kasten, nominating committee chair, know of your interest.

It looks as if we will have an exciting finish to our season. I believe these last 16 games of the regular season will be nail-biting for sure.

Everyone please stay behind our team and send them positive comments as they make this run for the 2014/2015 Kelly Cup Play Offs.

Nancy Sullivan



Donations Wanted

We are once again collecting Childrens themed bandages to donate to the nurses at MUSC. You can drop these donations off at the Stingrays Booster table in section 116 or the Stingrays table in section 110. If you would prefer to donate money toward bandaged, checks can be made payable to Ken Brenneman with "MUSC bandages" on the memo line.

Requirements for Bandages

1. It MUST be PRINTED on the box LATEX FREE. The ones saying not made with natural latex rubber will NOT meet their requirements. Neither will the plastic ones. It must say LATEX FREE!!

2. They cannot be medicated. This means no antiseptic included.

Thank you all for your continued generosity. If you have any questions feel free to ask .

- Ken Brenneman
(843) 556-3127



Board Nominations

I, Becky Niesen, would like to nominate myself for the position of member at large for the South Carolina Stingrays Booster Association.

I am originally from New Hampshire and even though I come from a family of baseball and football fans, I have always found my peace with hockey. Being a military spouse, I have gotten used to constantly having to make a new place my home with new friends and experiences.

Charleston seemed to be especially hard to make friends for some reason. One morning on my way into work, I hear Rob Concannon's familiar accent on the radio and realized that Stingrays could be my connection to back home. After just one game, I was hooked. I have been to nearly every game since. I have even left from work in Savannah and rushed back to make it to a game.

The Stingrays have become

my family and being a part of the boosters is my way to give back to that family. This season, I was given the chance to give back by heading up the newsletter committee. I feel that it's time to go to the next level by being a board member.

With my husband, I have had the opportunity to see how different clubs around the country approach different fundraising ideas and ways of providing support. I have held numerous roles on different support groups including president of the USS Columbus family support group. This experience allows me to bring new and exciting ideas to the table while understanding how to work within a set of bylaws and regulations.

Thank you for considering me for the position as member at large in the board of the Stingrays Booster Association.

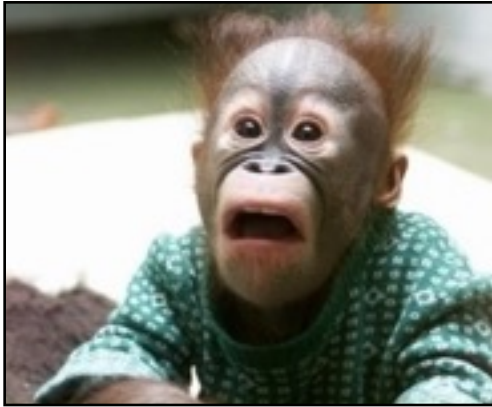
Are you proud of your team? What better way to show that pride, than greeting fans with a "Go Rays" as they enter while handing them the RayNotes? We are still looking for someone to take over getting volunteers to hand out the programs for the front office. This year it will only be for the Montague Avenue and the handicapped entrances and half of that is already done. Ms. Eleanor has volunteered to be



at the handicapped entrance, but she will need one other person to help her. We will need at least two people at the Montague Entrance. If you would like to volunteer, please give me a call 270-2300 or email djg607@yahoo.com.

Thank you!
-Donna Gelwicks

Stats Monkey



So what does Thanksgiving have to do with Groundhog Day? Apparently, what ever the team does to celebrate those holidays flips their switch to "win lots of games."

The team went undefeated in February. A

calendar month without a defeat. I can only find two other teams that have done the same. Cincinnati swept February of 2008 and Knoxville survived January in 1994.

The guys are in pretty elite company. Having the #1 and #2 goalies in the ECHL helps. Sticking to the systems and getting some bounces help even more.

For a team that had hit 6th in the East Division, winding up in 3rd with a little breathing room and only a handful of points out of 2nd must have seemed like a pipe dream when that furry little rodent saw his shadow 4 weeks ago.

Several things have seemed to contribute to the success. A stabilized line up has increased productivity and every line is chipping in on different nights.

The top two skill lines have been humming along. Rowe, DeBlois, Ricci and Simpson have started playing their best hockey of the season in February.

However, what has pushed us over the top has been the production of our 3rd/energy line guys. Devin, Bellamy and Spencer have been finding the scoresheet on a regular basis and picked up the slack when needed.

Moffie and MacKenzie have been chipping in points on a regular basis as well. MacKenzie went +14 for the month, Simonelli was +12 and Ford and Perrier were both +10. With the addition of Wong and Dolan to the line up, I am feeling much better about our playoff run than I was this time last month.

We still have some work to do on the ice. With 16 games left I think we will need 9 wins to lock a playoff spot.

Out of the 16 games remaining, only 2 games are against teams ahead of us in the playoff hunt. 9 of the games are against divisional foes in which we need to at least break even.

In all 16 games we will be playing dangerous, hungry teams with either nothing to lose or their playoff dreams on the line.

Of course if we could just go ahead and win the rest, that would be fine with me too.....

- Travis Rogers

Road Pack

The majority of home games are over and we have a few runs of road trips coming up. Water and Gatorade are the two things the team uses the most of. On trips in which the team goes and comes back in a day, most of what goes on the bus is drinks - not food. And there are quite a few day trips on the schedule this year. So I can always use water and Gatorade. ALWAYS. Here are some items the team could use on the bus: boxes of individually packaged snacks such as animal crackers, chips, pretzels, cheezits, cookies, nuts, trail mix, SlimJims, etc. You can now make donations to the Road Pack Committee via PayPal. These donations go towards fresh fruit and other items that the Boosters always put on the bus for the

team. Once the season starts it's easiest to pick up donations in the parking lot at the coliseum, but anyone that would like to donate items before then, please contact me. I will be glad to meet you. Email is the best way to contact me, but if you prefer to call, I will get back with you. Anyone that prefers to donate gift cards, Sams is where I do most of the shopping for the guys. Thanks for all you do to help.

- Tess Hagan



Player Apartments

As the year goes by and seasons change, stores put lots on clearance. It's a great time to grab a few things for the the player apartments. By next season, we are going to be needing pots and frying pans. If everyone could be on the lookout for any

good buys, please let me know.

Below are the sizes that are needed:

- medium to large pots
- 10" or 12" frying pans

Also, we are always in need of King size comforters and Queen size sheets. Thank You!

Donna Gelwicks

Twenty Questions: With Jeff Jakaitis

1. What is your dream car? **No Answer**
2. What book are you currently reading? **The Power of Myth by Joseph Campbell**

3. Who is your hockey idol? **Mike Richter**

4. What is your current favorite app? **Twitter, great for news**

5. Would you rather Sushi, Fondue, or hotdog cart? **Sushi**

6. What is your best hockey memory? **State tournament in Minnesota**

7. What pre-game superstitions do you partake in? **Don't really have any**

8. What's your favorite movie? **Saving Private Ryan**

9. What was your favorite team growing up? **NY Rangers**

10. If you were stranded on a deserted island, what 4 items would you not be able to live without? **could be fun not having anything**

11. What is your favorite spot in Charleston so far? **too many to name just one**

12. What is your favorite hockey movie? **Slapshot**

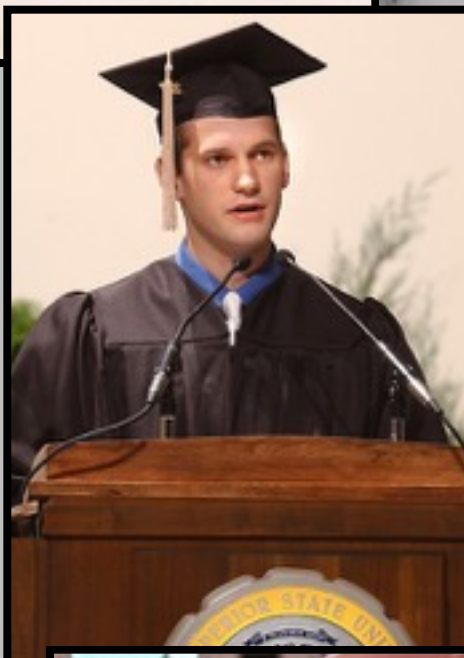
13. Do you have any brothers or sisters and if yes how many and what number are you? **One older brother, I am #2**

14. What is your most recent album download? **Gregory Alan Isakov, The Empty Norther Hemisphere**

15. Who has the better fashion, Don Cherry, Giorgio Armani, or Coach? **Giorgio Armani**

16. Who is your roommate and what is his best and worst habit? **My girlfriend, she's perfect**

17. Which do you prefer, Twitter, Instagram, or Facebook? **I like them all**



18. Which do you prefer Tim Hortons, Dunkin Donuts, Krispy Kreme or Starbucks? **Tim Hortons for coffee, Dunkin for donuts, Starbucks for tea**

19. What is your favorite vacation spot? **Venice, Italy**

20. What is your favorite way to relax or unwind during the season to stay fresh? **Drink tea and make pottery**



Player Spotlight

#35 Jeff Jakaitis

Jeff Jakaitis, lovingly nicknamed “JJ,” came to the Stingray organization in 2012 and has become an integral part of our hockey family from day one. He even chose to call our fair city his home and remains in Charleston year round. On ice, he keeps his nose in the game and shows incredible focus. Off ice, he is a giving and caring man who loves pottery and giving back to the community. He has won all sorts of awards, from the Jerry Zucker Community Service Award to ECHL Goalie of the Year. Most recently, he was named ECHL Goalie of the Month for a record setting fifth time. With all those awards, you can imagine how easy it was to find articles on Jeff. I tried to dig a little deeper and find an article few people may have seen. Enjoy this interview with JJ and Rick Honick from GDI East National Development Camps, where JJ is a coach in part of the off season.

“Q1: Let’s start off where we left off. You coached with us at the GDI camp at Quinnipiac, what did you take from that event? Whether pertaining to coaching philosophy or technical concept.

A: I really enjoyed the opportunity to coach at the GDI camp at Quinnipiac; it was great to work with the talented goalies and staff that attended. I think the aspect I enjoyed most was the dialogue among everyone throughout the week. I was really impressed with everyone’s motivation to learn, evolve, and express different points of view and I think that’s probably the most important thing I took away from the week. Goaltending is constantly changing and evolving and it’s important to study and keep improving all aspects of your game. I have never been an overly technical goalie but I learned a lot of terminology and techniques over the course of the week. I’m looking forward to more work in the future.

Q2: As a Minnesota High School (Rochester Mayo) and Division 1 (Lake Superior State) alumni, what were your expectations turning pro with the ECHL Columbia Inferno in 2007 and what is the biggest demand of the pro game?

A: To be honest I really wasn’t sure what to expect when I turned pro. The biggest difference I noticed from the start was the uncertainty of pro hockey. Coming out of college and high school, you commit to a school generally for four years and you know that’s where you’ll be. In pro hockey things can change very quickly, you can get called up, sent down, or released without any real warning so that was definitely a wakeup call. It’s really important to focus on your game and bring your best every night because if you don’t, you can get shipped out in a hurry. The biggest challenge is the schedule. In college you have an entire week to fit in workouts and prepare for two games; in pro hockey you have to learn to pick your spots a lot smarter. It makes it a lot more challenging to be consistent.

Q3: Your game is not like the “modern technical butterfly” goaltender. Yet you have achieved success at every level. How do

you justify your game and what are the over-riding fundamental strengths within that game.

A: I’ve been able to incorporate more technique into my game through work with GDI but I think the two most important aspects of my game are being square to the shooter and depth. My coach in college named Don Muio always stressed being square to the shooter. The second thing I really focus on is depth, it’s important for me to take and hold as much ice as possible in order to make myself look bigger than I actually am. Those two things combined tend to give me a pretty good shot at stopping the puck. At the end of the day goaltending is all about stopping the puck to me, and I don’t get too concerned with how pretty it looks as long as the job gets done.

Q4: You have been dealing with this fact your entire career. You are a small goaltender. Most aspiring goalies are not 6’5”, like the elite level coaches and GM’s wish for. What challenges does this pose and how have you overcome them, technically or physically.

A: I was really lucky growing up to have a coach in squirts that stressed skating. I would have to do fifteen to thirty minutes of skating every practice before I ever saw a shot. I hated it at the time but it really laid the foundation for what has made me successful up to this point.

As a smaller goalie you can make up for the lack in size by gaining a few extra inches of depth here and there. If you’re a better skater than the guy who is 6’5” you can offset that height advantage. It’s definitely not the most enjoyable part of goaltending but you can never work on your skating too much. I’ve updated to more complicated “PSM” drills since the squirt days but I still work specifically on skating anytime I have a free moment on the ice.

Q5: How do you deal with a tough game or loss mentally? Confidence can be a fragile asset.

A: It may sound a bit cliché, but it’s important to have a very short memory as a goalie. Over the course of a season you are going to have tough losses or nights where you’re not at your best. I’ve had some good conversations with Director, GDI Carolinas Ted Monnich (who is pursuing a PhD in Sports Psychology) over the past few years about the mental side of goaltending. Things we’ve discussed include 1. the constant effort to improve and 2. training until failure. When you struggle or fail it can be a very valuable learning tool. Why did you fail? How can you fix it moving forward? When you look at a tough loss as a learning tool it can springboard your game rather than hold you back. One of the toughest things about goaltending is being consistent and it’s important to keep a very “in the moment” mindset.

What happened on the shot before or what’s going to happen three shots from now isn’t important. All that matters is stopping the next shot. If you let in three early can you battle through it and make the big save late in the game to win 6-5 or do you give up? If you have a bad game can you bounce back and play well the next night? Anyone can play a great game under ideal circumstances, how do you play when you play under tough circumstances? The challenge is playing well on nights when you don’t feel good or things aren’t going your way. To me that’s what consistency is all about.”



Membership

If you have a change of address, phone number, or email address please let me know. This will allow me to keep our records up to date. I may be contacted at 762-1274, bethbell52@yahoo.com, or at raysboosternews@gmail.com.

I have a few emails that are no longer working or not translated correctly by me from your application. If you are not receiving SC Stingray Booster emails, please email me at one of the emails below. I will update your record. The last email was a reminder for the "Pack The House" Tailgating Fund Raiser.

You may renew your membership online with paypal! Go to: <http://www.raysboosters.com/memberapp.html>.

March Birthdays

| | |
|-----------------|------|
| Robert Wells | 3/2 |
| Tom Campbell | 3/9 |
| Chris Schwacke | 3/20 |
| Richard Edmonds | 3/23 |
| Doris Foust | 3/24 |



| | |
|----------------------|------|
| Sandra Kingry-Geiger | 3/24 |
| Roger Casey | 3/27 |
| Kim Murray | 3/27 |
| Becky Niesen | 3/31 |



March Calendar of Events

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--------|---------|---|----------|--|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 Family 4-Pack Friday 7:05PM Home vs. Gwinnett Gladiators | 7 7:05PM Away vs. Gwinnett Gladiators |
| 8 3:00PM Away vs. Greenville Road Warriors | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 7:35PM Away vs. Gwinnett Gladiators | 14 Military Appreciation Night 7:05PM Home vs. Gwinnett Gladiators |
| 15 Mascot Mania 3:05PM Home vs. Gwinnett Gladiators | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 7:05PM Home vs. Indy Fuel | 21 Undie Sunday 7:05PM Home vs. Cincinnati Cyclones |
| 22 End of Season Party | 23 | 24 | 25 7:35PM Away vs. Cincinnati Cyclones | 26 | 27 7:15PM Away vs. Toledo Walleye | 28 7:35PM Away vs. Indy Fuel |
| 29 6:00PM Away vs. Evansville Icemen | 30 | 31 | | | | |

Affiliate News

Providence Bruins

The Bruins have dropped to the 8th position in the Eastern Conference and climbed to 3rd in their division with a 29-20-7-1 record. Jeremy Smith is one of the few standouts, sitting at 7th in the league in terms of goaltenders with a 2.08 GAA and a .931 save percentage.

Hershey Bears

The Bears are on a roll and have fought their way to **FIRST** in the Eastern Conference and First in their division with a 35-14-5-2 record. While much of the team is really hitting their stride, Hershey has a couple of stand outs. Chris Connor was named the AHL Player of the Month for recording six goals - including three game-winners - and eight assists for 14 points along with a plus-9 rating in 12 games. Philipp Grubauer has moved up to 4th in the AHL with a 2.03 GAA and a .927 save percentage.

Boston Bruins

The Boston Bruins have remained in 8th place in the east with a 31-22-9 record. The only standout player right now is Niklas Svedberg is tied for second among rookie goaltenders in shutouts with two.

Washington Capitals

The Washington Capitals are sitting in the 7th spot in the east, with an 35-20-10 record. Alex Ovechkin continues to shine this month. He is currently tied with Backstrom for the most points and leading the league in goals. Brandon Holtby is in the top 10 for GAA and save percentage as well as second in the league for shutouts this season.

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March 2015

| COMMITTEE | CHAIRPERSON | TELEPHONE | EMAIL |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---|
| Bylaws | Terri Mills | 343-7812 | villageful@aol.com |
| Fundraising | Greg Landry | 851-7311 | ustafish@aol.com |
| Games Tables | Kim Thompson | 324-3680 | Ksthompson56@aol.com |
| Historian | Eleanor Spradlin | 554-9510 | |
| Membership | Beth Bell | 762-1274 | Bethbell52@yahoo.com or raysboosternews@gmail.com |
| Newsletter | Becky Niesen | 603-548-8298 | starlitnight@gmail.com |
| Nominating | Vacant | | |
| Player Apartments | Donna Gelwicks | 762-1965 270-2300 | Djg607@yahoo.com |
| Player Awards | Wayne Kasten | 553-7867 | |
| Player Scrapbooks | Jill Weeks | 870-3527 | Jillweeks@comcast.net |
| Sunshine | Barbara Brenneman | 556-3127 | bandk@wowway.net |
| Program | Board | | sullivan@ccpl.org |
| Rays Notes | Vacant | | |
| Road Pack | Tess Hagan | 670-4287 | Tess711711@gmail.com |
| Road Trips | | | |
| Telephone/ Email | Beth Bell | 762-1274 | Bethbell52@yahoo.com or raysboosternews@gmail.com |
| Website | Jayne Rogers | 270-7832 | jaywathne@gmail.com |

Just facts

1. The word "puck" was first recorded in the February 7th, 1876 edition of the Montreal Gazette, so the NHL regards this date as the hockey puck's birthday.
2. The National Hockey League (NHL) was founded on November 22, 1917.
3. Phil Esposito of the Boston Bruins was the first NHL player to record 100 points in a season, in 1969.

End of the Season Superlatives

Please circle your player choice for each question below and turn into Brittany Cogdill at the Booster Club table outside section 116 by March 15th. Winners will be announced at the end of the season party on March 22nd.

1) **Most likely to become famous
outside of hockey**

- Rob Bellamy
- Joe Devin
- Lee Moffie

2) **Most likely to be seen on a
day off at the links**

- Joe Diamond
- Scott Ford
- Caleb Herbert

3) **Friendliest player on the team**

- Andrew Ammon
- Brendan Ellis
- Andrew Rowe

4) **Most likely to be a member on your
trivia team**

- Derek Deblois
- Patrick Gaul
- Drew MacKenzie

5) **Most likely to have the best
playoff beard**

- Rob Ricci
- Frankie Simonelli
- Michael Young

6) **Most likely to be friends
with the tooth fairy**

- Wade Epp
- Marcus Perrier
- Tim Spencer
- Brandon Wong

7) **Most likely to become the
next Bionic man**

- Andrew Blazek
- Sean Dolan
- Jeff Jakaitis

8) **Mr. Congeniality**

- Garrett Haar
- Adam Morrison
- Wayne Simpson

9) **Who is your favorite player?**

END OF THE SEASON PARTY



CHICKEN AND RIBS

POT LUCK

The Booster Association will provide the Chicken and Ribs
Please bring a HOME MADE DISH for 10-12 PEOPLE to share

Sunday, March 22nd – 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Dorchester Boat Club

Near Old Dorchester State Park

300 Old Dorchester State Park Rd., Summerville 29485

Turn into the park and take the first left before going through the park columns



Deadline for Sign Up and Payment is Saturday, March 14th

If you would like to pay by Credit Card via Paypal, please come by the
games table at Section 116, go to our web page at
www.raysboosters.com and remember you must be a current member
of the booster association to attend this party, or send a check with
this form to:

SC Stingrays Booster Association
PO Box 2236
Summerville SC 29484-2236

Booster Member Name: _____

Names of those attending with Member: _____

(Please complete in full so that we can make nametags ahead of time)

Adults # of _____ @ \$10.00 per person = \$ _____
Children (ages 6-11) # of _____ @ \$ 5.00 per person = \$ _____
Children (5 & under) # of _____ free
Total \$ _____

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March 2015

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SC Stingrays Booster Association
PO Box 2236
Summerville SC 29484-2236
"The Team That Supports The Team"

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Please check out our new and
updated website at
www.raysbooster.com